

# LEGIONELLOSIS

Legionellosis, a bacterial disease caused by *Legionellae* bacteria, has two distinct manifestations: “Legionnaires’ disease” and “Pontiac fever”. Both illnesses have an acute onset characterized by malaise, headache, and fever. In Legionnaires’ disease, pneumonia may develop and progress to respiratory failure. Patients with Pontiac fever do not develop pneumonia and recover within two to five days. Airborne transmission by aerosol producing devices is the most likely method of transmission. Legionnaires’ disease occurs both sporadically and in outbreaks. Pontiac fever is identified primarily in community outbreaks.

## Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Isolation of *Legionella* species from respiratory secretions, lung tissue, pleural fluid, or other normally sterile fluids, **OR**
- Positive Direct Fluorescence Antibody (DFA) test of lower respiratory secretion, pleural fluid or tissue specimen for *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1, **OR**
- Fourfold or greater change of serum reciprocal immunofluorescence antibody titer to  $\geq 128$  against *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 between paired acute and convalescent-phase serum specimens, **OR**
- Demonstration of *L. pneumophila* serogroup 1 antigens in urine by radioimmunoassay (RIA) or enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).

## Incidence in Kentucky 2000

<b>Number of Cases</b>	22
Rate per 100,000	0.6

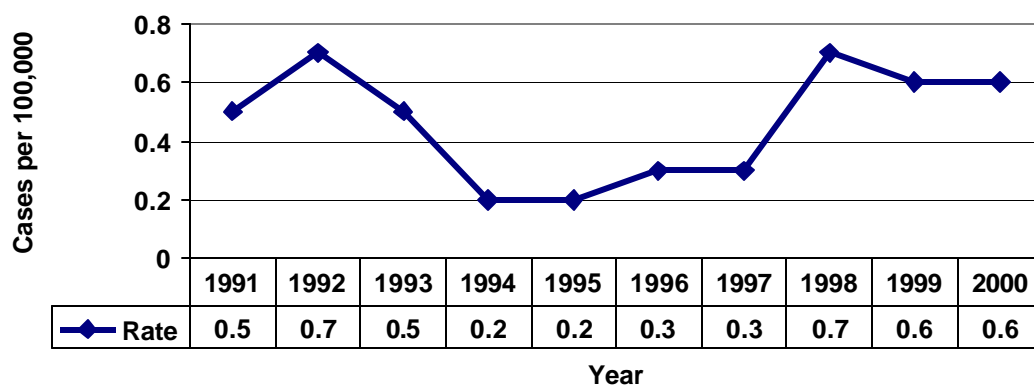
### Rate by Gender (per 100,000)

Female	0.3
Male	0.8

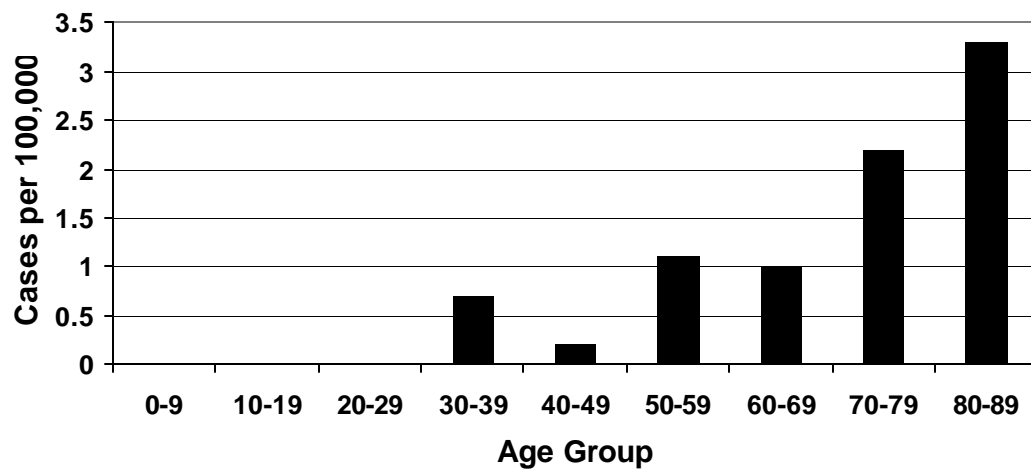
### Rate by Race (per 100,000)

White	0.5
Black	0.3

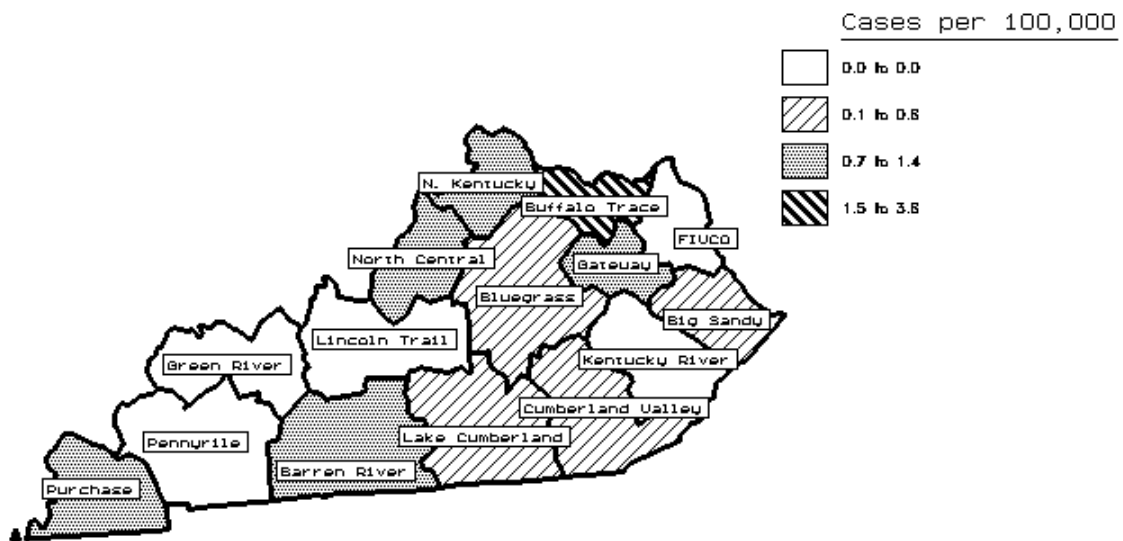
### Legionellosis Incidence, Kentucky 1991-2000



### Legionellosis, Age-Specific Incidence Kentucky, 2000



## Legionellosis by District, Kentucky Annual Incidence, 2000



Pennyrile, Green River, Lincoln Trail, Fivco, and Kentucky River Districts did not report any cases. Buffalo Trace had the highest incidence rate of 3.6 cases per 100,000.